United Nations A/73/313

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 August 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 51 of the provisional agenda*
University for Peace

University for Peace

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The University for Peace was established as an academic institution with both academic and financial autonomy by the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace, a multilateral treaty. The General Assembly, in its resolution 35/55, approved the establishment of the University for Peace in conformity with the International Agreement and with the charter of the University for Peace. The Agreement states that "the financing of the University shall not have any financial implications for the budget of the United Nations or that of the United Nations University. The budget of the University shall not impose any obligatory assessments on the States parties to the present Agreement unless they agree otherwise." The University has been training leaders for peace for the past 38 years, with more than 2,200 alumni — over 54 per cent of them women — from its master's degree programmes working for peace around the world. The University is an important educational institution in the field of irenology, set out in the pursuit of the mandate set forth in its charter, namely to "provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace and with the aim of promoting, among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress." The University's budget is covered primarily by its tuition fees and the generous contributions of private foundations and a select group of Governments.

As it prepares to celebrate its fortieth anniversary, the University continues its systematic and critical study, understanding and analysis of the causes of the multiple problems affecting human and global well-being; the exploration and formulation of strategies and practices in various contexts to help to address such problems and contribute to the processes of peacebuilding, including through the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; the cultivation of modes of thinking, inquiry and pedagogy that are critical, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, integrative, empowering and transformative; and the development of a diverse, inclusive, ethical,

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creative community of learning, sharing, networking and solidarity on campus and in the global environment. Through its diverse faculty body of resident and visiting professors, the University trains future leaders for peace to explore and formulate strategies and practices in various contexts to address such problems and contribute to processes of making, building and sustaining peace.

The University is currently implementing 14 joint academic programmes with high-level universities around the world. The various contributions of the University provide new generations with the knowledge and skills to influence processes of change in favour of peace, be it within the United Nations system, within States or as part of civil society organizations, all of which increasingly require specific knowledge on how to address the tensions, threats and conflicts in today's international system.

With its contribution to the work of the United Nations and its vision of the role of other key civil society actors, it is essential that the University's vision, position and tasks in the context of an evolving international system be reviewed regularly. The current international context demands an expansion of training and educating for peace, especially with regard to ongoing and increasingly complex conflicts, interrelations between actors at the local, national, regional and global levels and the impact of transnational crime on peace and security. The University contributes to such a response. In that regard, the support of Member States will be important in ensuring the successful execution of the University's mission, which is aimed at the academic training of future leaders of Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector on peaceful conflict resolution and the relationship between peace, security, development, human rights and environmental protection as the foundation for economic development and increased equality. With the support and collaboration of Member States and the wider United Nations system, the University will continue to contribute preparing a new generation for their fundamental role and responsibility in resolving conflicts — with an emphasis on prevention — and promoting opportunities for cooperation for peace.

I. Introduction

1. The present report, which is submitted to facilitate consideration by the General Assembly of the agenda item entitled "University for Peace", pursuant to Assembly resolution 70/79, contains a summary of the progress made by the University during the period 2015–2018 and highlights both its opportunities for growth and its challenges.

2. The present report includes an overview of the main activities at the University's campus in Costa Rica, as well as those carried out by its regional centres and affiliated institutions. It highlights the University's relationships with the United Nations and related bodies, as well as with the host country, in addition to relationships with Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. The report also includes information on the University's recent academic achievements, its current financial situation and governance mechanisms and its development strategy for the next three years.

3. In its resolution 70/79, the General Assembly recognized the important and varied activities carried out by the University during the period from 2012 to 2015, with the valuable assistance and contributions of Governments, foundations and non-governmental organizations; and recognized the relevance of Sustainable Development Goal 4, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, particularly its target 4.B, which is aimed at substantially expanding the number of scholarships available to developing countries by 2020. The Assembly requested the University, given its role in developing new concepts and approaches to security through education, training and research in order to respond effectively to emerging threats to peace, to find viable ways to further strengthen cooperation with the United Nations system; it also requested Member States to take the lead in supporting the mission of the University by recognizing the institution and, when possible, making financial contributions that would make it possible for the University to offer its programmes of study to all students who wish to participate in them and by facilitating the University's operations in host countries; and invited Member States that had not already done so to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace.

II. University for Peace in 2018

A. Thirty-eight years of the University for Peace

4. Over the past 38 years, the University has been guided by the charter of the University and has sought to support the main objectives of the United Nations in matters of peace and international security through the training of new generations of professionals with the ability to transform and resolve conflict through understanding, tolerance and coexistence, on the basis of cooperation and the values of the United Nations.

5. The University contributes to the education and training of leaders in the field of peace and conflict resolution, in relation to the four basic pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights, development and the rule of law. More than 2,200 alumni from over 100 countries have leveraged their training, experience and skills to make a positive impact on their communities, countries, regions and the world. The majority of our students and alumni are women, who play a historic and critical role as peacebuilders, at both the local and the international levels. It is also important to highlight the growing number of non-degree training (capacity-building activities) carried out by the University in partnership with United Nations system

agencies and other international organizations, such as the Women Scholarship for Peace programme (carried out in partnership with the Office for Disarmament Affairs). The University focuses on education for non-violence, education for inclusion, education for social cohesion, education for the rule of law, and education for legality and ethics. It is crucial to develop an educational curriculum that promotes skills, values and behaviours that contribute to peace, justice, sustainable development and solidarity.

6. The renewed vision must continue and further incorporate the gender and inclusivity perspectives that have characterized the University for Peace, as evidenced by its master's degree in gender and peacebuilding and its efforts to make gender a transversal topic throughout its academic programmes. The gender distribution of the University's alumni is 62 per cent female and 38 per cent male. The Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship programme, carried out with Ateneo de Manila University and with the support of the Nippon Foundation, has supported 56 per cent female students and 44 per cent male students. At the University's main campus, 55 per cent of resident faculty members are female.

B. Institutional changes

7. In June 2013, the Council of the University elected a new rector, Francisco Rojas Aravena, who has significant experience in the field of international relations and international security. At its most recent meeting, held in June 2018, the Council renewed the rector's mandate for an additional five years, until June 2023.

8. The Council is composed of 17 members, 10 of whom are appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and 7 of whom are ex officio members established by the charter of the University for Peace. One position on the Council is currently vacant. Pending the appointment of the additional member, the Council currently comprises nine men and seven women.

9. The current ex officio members are: Francisco Rojas (Chile), rector; Oscar Fernández-Taranco (Argentina), representative of the Secretary-General; Pilar Álvarez-Laso (Mexico), representative of the UNESCO Director General; David Malone (Canada), United Nations University rector; Juan Carlos Mendoza and Pilar Garrido (Costa Rica), host country representatives; and Enrique Barón Crespo (Spain), chancellor.

10. The current members from the academic community or other persons eminent in the field of peace and security are: Hal Klepak (Canada), president; Fernando Blasco (Argentina), vice-president; Fatima Akilu (Nigeria); Jean Arnault (France); Alicia Bárcena (Mexico); Lalla Ben Barka (Mali); Ouided Bouchamaoui (Tunisia); Meenakshi Gopinath (India); and Xiaoyu Zhang (China).

C. Rodrigo Carazo campus, University for Peace headquarters

11. The University's Rodrigo Carazo campus, located in Costa Rica, is named after its founder, a former President of Costa Rica whose vision and passion for training future leaders for peace materialized with the creation of the University for Peace in 1980. It consists of 300 ha located within a secondary forest reserve, home to mammals such as monkeys and deer, over 300 species of birds and more than 100 species of trees. It is an example of the biodiversity of Costa Rica, the protection of which represents a great opportunity for the development of scientific studies on tropical biodiversity. The park is open to the general public.

D. Academic matters

1. Master's degree programmes

12. The University continues to offer innovative master's degree programmes in areas related to peace studies, international law, gender studies, the environment and sustainable development. Currently, eight master's degree programmes are offered at the main campus, and they all incorporate the themes of gender, race, religion, class and ethnic perspectives, as well as those related to the community of, inter alia, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals. The programmes offered are:

(a) International peace studies;

(b) Gender and peacebuilding;

(c) Peace education;

(d) International law and human rights;

(e) International law and the settlement of disputes;

(f) Environment, development and peace, with specializations in environmental security and governance, sustainable natural resource management, climate change policy and sustainable food systems;

(g) Responsible management and sustainable economic development;

(h) Conflict resolution, peace and development (taught in Spanish).

13. The University also offers an online master's degree programme in sustainable peace in the contemporary world, which engages professionals and researchers in resolving pressing and complex global problems that concern humanity.

14. Over the past three years, as part of its strategy to expand its academic offerings, the influence of its programmes and its image, the University has created a series of off-campus master's degree programmes, including an executive master's degree in international human rights law, in association with the Costa Rica Bar Association; a master's degree in international human rights law, in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the judicial branch of Honduras; a master's degree in prevention of asset laundering and financial delinquency, in association with a foundation that studies of asset laundering and related crimes; a master's degree (law) in transnational crime and justice, in association with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute; and a master's degree in peace, governance and security, in association with the national police of Uganda.

2. Dual degree and joint programmes

15. The University maintains dual-degree and joint programmes with leading universities around the world. Those options enable students to earn multiple degrees in complementary areas by studying at multiple institutions. Currently, the University for Peace offers the following dual degree and joint programmes with partner universities around the world:

(a) American University, United States of America: a master's degree in international affairs from American University and a master's degree in natural resources and sustainable development from the University for Peace;

(b) Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines: a master's degree in global politics from Ateneo de Manila University and a master's degree of choice from the University for Peace;

(c) Brandeis University, United States: a master's degree in coexistence and conflict from Brandeis University and a master's degree in international law and human rights from the University for Peace;

(d) Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea: a master's degree from each institution in the fields of law, communications (media) and sustainable development, depending on the student's area of interest;

(e) Innsbruck University, Austria: a master's degree in peace, development, security and international conflict transformation from Innsbruck University and a master's degree of choice from the University for Peace;

(f) International University of Monaco, Monaco: a master's degree in sustainable peace through sports at the International University of Monaco and the option to obtain a number of credits towards a master's degree at the University for Peace;

(g) Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia: a master's degree in human rights and culture of peace, taught in Spanish;

(h) IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, Netherlands, and Oregon State University, United States: a master's degree in water cooperation and peace from Oregon State University and a master's degree in water, development and peace, with a specialization in environmental security, from the University for Peace;

(i) The Hague University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands: a master's degree in responsible management for a sustainable world;

(j) Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio, Spain: a master's degree in international cooperation or human rights from Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio and a master's degree of choice from the University for Peace.

16. The University will continue, wherever possible, to develop similar programmes to expand its impact around the world with key postgraduate institutions and think tanks whose work supports the mission and values of the University for Peace and the United Nations.

17. The master's degrees in regional studies have allowed the University to better incorporate students from Spanish-speaking countries, in particular from its host country, and students wishing to pursue studies in the development field in Spanish-speaking countries.

3. Scholarship programmes

18. The University is currently the beneficiary of a number of scholarship programmes, including:

(a) The Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship programme: since 2007, the University has been working with Ateneo de Manila University on a capacity-building project for Asian professionals. This programme, sponsored by the Nippon Foundation of Japan, offers up to 30 annual scholarships for Asian professionals (15 from Japan and 15 from South-East Asia). In 2014, the University for Peace and Ateneo de Manila University gave the scholarship programme a dual-degree format. This enriched programme offers intensive, specialized language training to facilitate the participation of professionals with lower levels of English proficiency, as well as the hands-on design and implementation of an intensive field project in Asia;

(b) Hankuk University of Foreign Studies: this combined programme is offered by the University for Peace and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, specifically the Graduate School of International and Area Studies;

(c) The Costa Rica Bar Association: as part of the academic partnership with the University for Peace, the Costa Rica Bar Association assigns 10 scholarships to students pursuing the off-campus degree in international law and human rights;

(d) The German Academic Exchange Service: since March 2018, University for Peace has been part of a group of higher education institutions in Central America and the Dominican Republic affiliated with the German Academic Exchange Service. The in-region scholarship programme grants scholarships for development-related master or doctoral studies for individuals who plan to pursue a career in teaching and/or research at a higher education institution in their home region or in their home country. The number of scholarships is determined on a yearly basis;

(e) Rotary International: in 2018, Rotary International designated 6 scholarships for students wanting to pursue their master's degree in water cooperation and diplomacy at the University for Peace, carried out jointly with Oregon State University and the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education.

19. Furthermore, the University offers a series of scholarships in accordance with the following categories: one full scholarship per year to a resident of Ciudad Colón, awarded in consultation with the Mora Municipality; 50 per cent tuition for professors from a partner university; 50 per cent tuition for Costa Rican citizens and legal residents; 50 per cent tuition for current full-time United Nations staff members and volunteers; 50 per cent tuition for documented refugees and asylees; 50 per cent tuition for alumni interested in pursuing a second degree at the University for Peace; 30–50 per cent merit-based scholarship (discretionary); 30 per cent tuition scholarship for citizens and nationals of a signatory State to the charter of the University for Peace; 30 per cent scholarship to students who have received an undergraduate or graduate degree from a partner university; 30 per cent scholarship for students from Spanish-speaking countries interested in the master's degree in conflict resolution, peace and development (taught in Spanish).

4. Doctoral programme

20. The University offers a doctoral programme in peace and conflict studies designed for talented researchers who will pursue innovative research in the field of peace studies. In addition, practitioners can transform their experiences into scientific knowledge that can be systematized and disseminated through academic publications. The themes on which doctoral candidates focus on correspond to the most significant current debates at the United Nations and in the international arena.

21. The University is currently working on increasing the impact of its doctoral programme through the design of regional programmes to support different constituencies. In Africa, the University is currently working alongside the following institutions: University of Cape Town, South Africa; University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon; Nkumba University, Uganda; Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; University of Ghana; University of Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo; University of Nairobi, Kenya; and University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, as well as the International Development Research Centre in Canada. For the 2018–2019 academic year, the University will open admissions for the second cohort of the doctoral programme for the Africa region. Furthermore, the University is working with Universidad Alfonso X in Spain to launch a doctoral programme within the rules of the European academic space. The programme will be launched following the approval of the accreditation body in Spain. In China, the University is working with its partners to launch a doctoral programme focused on the most important topics on the regional agenda.

5. Other academic activities

22. The University has successfully carried out a number of capacity-building programmes over the past 10 years. They range from diploma and certification courses to full-scale master's degree programmes, all tailor-made to meet the needs of donors and partners.

23. In November 2016, the University for Peace held a one-week workshop for teachers from Central America and the Dominican Republic on science, technology, engineering, arts and math training. The TeachHer initiative is a pilot project launched in June 2016 by the former Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bukova, the wife of the former Vice-President of the United States, Jill Biden, and the former First Lady of Costa Rica, Mercedes Peñas Domingo. The TeachHer global public-private partnership works with target Member States, UNESCO regional field offices and institutes and non-governmental organization leaders in science, technology, engineering, arts and math training to implement and promote programmes that will support girls' education in those areas. The focus is on developing a cadre of gender-sensitive teachers who will noticeably increase the number of adolescent girls interested in pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, arts and math, along with ongoing professional development and networking for teachers.

24. In 2017, the University for Peace concluded a three-year project with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, which provided scholarships and training for 140 women on disarmament and non-proliferation activities, with a clear focus on peace and conflict. The project consisted of four different training sessions in Addis Ababa, Cairo, Bangkok and San José. In January 2018, the University for Peace began a second project with the Office and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the OSCE Scholarship for Peace. This initiative, conducted in partnership with 28 organizations whose work contributes to disarmament, non-proliferation and development-related issues, offers training programmes providing foundational skills and knowledge on conflict prevention and resolution through arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation with a specific focus on OSCE-relevant instruments, for 70 young professional women and men from participating OSCE States and partners.

25. The University is currently concluding its master's degree programme in Honduras, in which 100 judges, prosecutors and public defenders were trained at the postgraduate level. Upon completion of the programme, graduates receive a master's degree in international law and human rights. The programme is being executed in association with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and in coordination with UNDP.

26. The University signed a cooperation agreement with the regional government of Extremadura, Spain, to organize a summer course in July 2018 in areas related to conflict resolution, peace, gender and development, with key figures from the European Union, UNESCO and the University for Peace set to participate.

27. To continue the work completed during the first phase of the project on regional international law and access to justice in Latin America, the University for Peace is organizing activities to commemorate the 40-year anniversary of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in association with the German Cooperation Agency. Activities include a seminar on international law and access to justice and a workshop on human rights and sustainable development. This activity aims to further build a platform for dialogue and discussion in order to establish a conceptual framework regarding access to justice in Latin America.

6. Accreditation

28. Since 2005, the University has implemented a continuous and systematic external evaluation of all its master's degree programmes. External evaluators assess the academic quality and performance of each programme and provide recommendations for its improvement.

29. The University became a part of the National System of Higher Education Accreditation in Costa Rica in 2008 and immediately proceeded to begin the accreditation of its Department of Environment and Development programmes, which were accredited in 2014. In 2016, the programmes within the Department of International Law followed suit and received their accreditation. The Department of Peace and Conflict Studies programmes are in the process of being accredited.

7. Enrolment

30. As is the case with many educational institutions, full-time enrolment at the University's main campus has suffered in recent years. The number of applications has remained stable over time, but many students cannot afford to pursue their graduate studies without financial support in the form of financial aid or scholarships. Such support from Governments, foundations and the private sector has become essential to guarantee access to the programmes. Currently, many applicants do not pursue their acceptance when they learn that the University cannot offer substantial scholarship assistance.

31. In accordance with the guidelines established by the Council of the University and its medium-term and long-term strategic plans, the University is working towards enrolling 500 students a year by 2020 in its various academic programmes, both on campus and through its off-campus programmes; for the 2017–2018 academic year, this number reached 400. In order to achieve this target, the University is currently seeking to establish several international scholarship funds with the support of the signatory States to the charter and international philanthropic institutions.

8. University alumni

32. The University's more than 2,200 alumni live and work in every region of the world. The vast majority work in a peacebuilding capacity in their home countries and internationally, often on the front line of conflict situations. Currently, the highest percentage of alumni work for non-governmental organizations, but many graduates go on to work within the United Nations system and in various international humanitarian capacities. Some now teach at the university level and work for academic institutions, while others have joined their national Governments in diverse and influential fields, including international affairs, electoral tribunals and environmental policy. Another significant portion of the alumni community is pursuing doctoral degrees.

33. Given the importance of its alumni network, the University is working to build contacts with as many alumni as possible through its alumni relations officer. The main tasks of the alumni relations programme are to focus on planning and implementing programmes that keep alumni connected with each other and with the University, to encourage and promote alumni's professional development and to keep the alumni community aware of the University's developments and needs, thus allowing them to support its medium-term and long-term strategies.

9. Publications

34. The University is constantly promoting the generation of knowledge on behalf of its academic faculty, as well as the dissemination of knowledge through

publications. Both through its in-house publication *Ideas for Peace* and through the publication of books and other academic materials in collaboration with other institutions, the University for Peace strives to contribute to the global discussion on peace and conflict, international law, climate change and other topics directly related to its areas of expertise.

35. During the 2015–2018 period, the University has increased its academic production, including the number of publications. Over the past two years, University faculty members have published five books[1] and several articles and book chapters (6 thus far in 2018, 18 in 2017 and over 12 in 2016).

36. In collaboration with the Peace Without Borders foundation and Abat Oliba CEU University in Spain, the University for Peace published three volumes related to the right to peace, namely, "The Right to Peace: Past, Present and Future", by Christian Guillermet Fernández, David Fernández Puyana and Miguel Bosé, and "History of Peace in the West", by Miguel Bosé and David Fernandez-Puyána, in both English and Spanish.

37. In collaboration with the German Cooperation Agency, the University plans to publish books on access to justice from an international perspective in Latin America and on bar associations and access to justice in Latin America, and an analysis of legal studies in Costa Rican universities.

E. Subsidiary centres and affiliated institutions

1. Changes to regional offices

38. Since the previous report was submitted to the General Assembly, the University for Peace has expanded its global reach with a series of changes to its regional offices meant to increase the University's visibility and impact.

39. In 2018, the University for Peace began formal, and ultimately successful, consultations in Geneva to re-establish its office there, located at the headquarters of the Building Foundation for International Organizations. The work carried out by the office will represent an important contribution of the University for Peace at the second-largest United Nations headquarters.

40. In 2017, the University for Peace Centre in The Hague came under new leadership. The Centre's focus is currently on peace and conflict studies, water and peace (water diplomacy) and urban peace and security. The Centre works with various Dutch and other European partners, as well as experts from the University's global network, to achieve its objectives. A specific task is to promote and facilitate the recruitment of European students to master's degree programmes and other educational activities at the University's main campus in Costa Rica. Another task is to facilitate the implementation of the activities of the Earth Charter International in the Netherlands in cooperation with three partner organizations. The Centre is an independent entity under Dutch law and is financially independent from the University.

41. The University continues to have permanent observers and representatives at United Nations Headquarters in New York and in Bonn, Germany. The University has also been negotiating with the Government of Honduras to establish a representation

[1] Books published by faculty members during this period include: Mihir Kanade, *The Multilateral Trading System and Human Rights: A Governance Space Theory on Linkages* (Routledge, 2017). Mariateresa Garrido (ed.), *Human Rights and Technology: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (University for Peace, 2015). Gudmundur Eiriksson, *Liber Amicorum: In Honour of a Modern Renaissance Man* (O. P. Jindal Global University, 2017).

office in Tegucigalpa. The agreement is under consideration by the National Congress of Honduras.

42. The Africa programme was established in 2002 with the objective of building the capacity of African universities in the areas of peace, gender, conflict, governance, security and development. The programme's undertakings are built around two major pillars: strengthening the teaching, training and learning capacity of African tertiary education institutions and enhancing research and publications by African scholars. The Africa programme is managed by the University's regional office in Addis Ababa, which is financially autonomous.

2. Affiliated institutions

Earth Charter

43. The Earth Charter Centre for Education for Sustainable Development implements actions in two main areas: training and research on education for sustainable development for educators and youth empowerment, which correspond to the implementation of the commitments made to the UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development. The Earth Charter seeks to inspire a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life and future generations. It is a vision of hope and a call to action.

Human Rights Centre

44. The Human Rights Centre was created in line with the stated mission of the University, as specified in its charter, to promote understanding of, respect for and enjoyment of human rights. The Centre carries out its mission through specialized human rights education, training, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, and takes a practitioner-based approach to the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights, while promoting the integration of theory and practice. The Centre has also taken a leading role in promoting the right to development. In particular, the Centre is the lead partner of a joint e-learning project on operationalizing the right to development in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, developed and delivered in association with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health.

Centre for Executive Education

45. Located within the University for Peace, the Centre for Executive Education was created in 2007 to offer a platform for engaging with the University and its mission, without students undertaking a degree-bearing programme. Over the past decade, the Centre has worked with leaders from around the world to offer transformational educational experiences that are dynamic and engaging while inspiring participants to have a positive influence in an increasingly interconnected world. The Centre engages through three main programmes: online courses with a capstone diploma in social innovation, customized on-site university group programmes and on-site workshops at the University.

F. Local relations

46. Relations with the host country remained strong during the 2015–2018 period. The new President, Carlos Alvarado, assumed office in May 2018. Almost immediately after assuming office, the Vice-President and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Epsy Campbell, met with the University's rector, Francisco Rojas, to assure

continued support by the host country to the mission of the University. Following that meeting, President Alvarado named two high-ranking ministers to the University Council as host country representatives.

G. International relations

47. The University has relied on its Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship programme, sponsored by the Nippon Foundation, for the majority of its presence in Asia. Over the past three years, University leadership has expanded its presence in the Asian region. In 2017 and 2018, the rector travelled to China, India, Japan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand for a series of events in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the programme.

48. During that period, the University also signed a memorandum of understanding with the China International Council for the Promotion of Multilateral Corporations. Through the partnership, the University will establish a University Centre in China, as well as developing a series of academic programmes for Chinese students, including master's and doctoral degrees.

49. Furthermore, the University is currently in negotiations with the China Scholarship Council to secure a permanent number of scholarships for students from China wishing to pursue their graduate studies at the University's campus in Costa Rica.

50. Within the context of the swearing-in ceremony for the new President of Costa Rica, two important delegations visited the university campus, the Special Representative of Japan, Shunsuke Takei, and the Ambassador of Nepal to the United States and designated Ambassador to Costa Rica, Arjun Karki, with whom the University explored possible scholarship funds for students from Nepal.

51. In April 2016, the University signed a memorandum of understanding with the national police of Uganda to support the newly created Graduate College for a period of five years. The project is valued at approximately $1 million, which is financed directly by the national police. The funding provided is expected to keep the Africa programme running, as well as providing the time needed to continue fundraising efforts in the region before the conclusion of the five-year period of this project.

52. In the Americas, the University signed memorandums of understanding with both the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences.

H. Relations with the United Nations system

53. The University is continually seeking partnerships, visiting scholars and collaborative activities with relevant United Nations bodies.

54. During the 2015–2018 period, the University for Peace participated in meetings of the General Assembly, including the High-level Forum on the culture of peace in and the high-level meeting on "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace", convened by the President of the Assembly in April 2018. During those events, the University had the honour and privilege of addressing the Assembly and pledging its commitment to supporting the work of the United Nations.

55. On 14 June 2018, the rector of the University for Peace participated as keynote speaker in a half-day intersessional workshop on the right to peace in Geneva, held pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 35/4 on promotion of the right to peace.

56. While at United Nations Headquarters for the high-level meeting on "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace", representatives of the University held a side event on the role of education in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The event focused on the University's Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship programme as an example of a successful academic programme for engaging in peacebuilding in a meaningful way.

57. The visit to New York also allowed the University representatives to sign a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to create academic programmes of mutual interest. Furthermore, both institutions will promote the exchange of qualified students and the exchange of faculty for joint research and teaching, and will foster academic areas of mutual interest.

58. In September 2016, the University for Peace began the implementation of a new programme in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Government of Costa Rica, with the aim of offering quality temporary reception conditions for the implementation of the protection transfer arrangement, for the subsequent resettlement in a third country of families of the North Triangle of Central America, for a period of three to seven months. The University for Peace is the implementation agency for the programme, for which it has developed and strengthened more than 20 protocols, and incorporated changes to its administrative system in order to facilitate the assistance provided to forcibly displaced persons. Those efforts culminated in the University for Peace receiving the "Living Integration" seal on 23 April 2018, as a recognition of its accomplishments in this area.

59. In April 2018, the University joined the Global Delivery Initiative, a partnership of some 40 institutions and organizations, coordinated by the World Bank, to generate and share knowledge and best practices and lessons learned towards improving the delivery of development programmes.

60. The University is also in discussions with the United Nations System Staff College to co-organize a "sustainable development academy", a high-level multi-stakeholder dialogue and training initiative focused on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. That initiative aims to gather senior staff from the United Nations system, senior government officials, business leaders and leaders of civil society organizations and academia from the Americas region to engage in collective learning and discussion of the 2030 Agenda, as well as to build collective efforts towards advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. The University hopes to contribute content that will help guide these efforts towards conflict prevention in keeping with a "sustaining peace" approach.

61. During the period under review, the University also signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute for collaboration in the University's master's degree in transnational crime and justice in Turin, Italy. The first cohort has successfully completed the programme and the second is starting soon.

62. Finally, the United Nations sabbatical leave programme will give priority to applicants who propose to study at the University for Peace.

I. Community relations

63. The relationship between the University and the local communities of El Rodeo and Ciudad Colón is excellent. University authorities, faculty and students regularly participate in and contribute to the towns' cultural activities. University students

conduct community work throughout the towns, and municipal authorities contribute actively to the University by keeping its authorities informed of work being done and by resolving issues that are critical to the functioning of the University. As part of this relationship, the University provides an annual scholarship to a resident of Ciudad Colón.

J. Financial situation and governance

64. Notwithstanding the appeal for contributions by the Secretary-General in his reports to the General Assembly in 2009 (A/64/281), in 2012 (A/67/272) and again in 2015 (A/70/288), and by the Assembly in its resolution 70/79, in which the Assembly invited Member States to make financial contributions to the University, very few countries have provided voluntary support. The University and the Government of Costa Rica signed an additional protocol to the headquarters agreement, providing a small permanent annual contribution to the University ($50,000), and two other countries have followed suit. International experience shows that universities around the world must rely on endowments and contributions to support themselves, and the University is exploring ways in which it can implement that model.

65. At the close of the 2017–2018 fiscal period, the University has almost completely eliminated the deficit it has been carrying since 2010, in excess of $1.5 million. This was achieved through a combination of drastic cost-cutting measures, the implementation of capacity-building initiatives as a way to increase revenue and a series of fundraising efforts.

66. The University's objective is to be self-sustaining by using income generated by its teaching and training programmes and through the support of Member States and donations and special projects. The University extends its special gratitude to the Nippon Foundation for its significant support of the University through its Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship programme, which recently celebrated its tenth anniversary, with celebrations in Costa Rica, Japan, the Philippines and Thailand. The University would also like to express its appreciation to the European Union, the Government of Germany, through the German Cooperation Agency and the German Academic Exchange Service, the Swiss Government, including the Swiss Cooperation for Development, the National Dutch Postcode Lottery and the Government of the United States for their partnership in key projects.

67. As requested by the Council of the University, the University for Peace has developed and adopted policies on the prohibition of discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, and abuse of authority and on protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct and for cooperating with duly authorized audits or investigations. Those policies are in keeping with the Secretary-General's strong emphasis on an absolute zero-tolerance policy as regards discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, and abuse of authority, and on the need to protect whistle-blowers. The University is determined to ensure that all relevant mechanisms are in place to prevent and address incidents of misconduct of this nature in a fair and transparent manner. The University is working to fully implement those policies under the guidance of the Council.

K. Development strategy

1. Short-term strategy 2018–2021

68. As it nears its fortieth anniversary, the University is initiating a process of reflection about the pursuit of its mission and how it can strengthen and expand its

global reach. The University has established a short-term development strategy to maximize its development and growth over the next three years.

69. In particular, the University will focus on strengthening its ties with the signatory States of its charter. The University is in a position to provide training to government officials, civil society organizations, private sector actors and non-governmental organizations. In this regard, the University is strengthening its capacity to fulfil its mandate by adding high-level professionals with extensive experience to its staff and faculty.

70. The University will coordinate its work agenda with that of the United Nations under the leadership of the Secretary-General in order to seek the synergies necessary to implement the mandate of the University for Peace, in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 70/79.

71. The University will further focus on its global growth through its representatives in New York, Geneva and Addis Ababa, with local political and diplomatic support and the mobilization of resources to strengthen the mandate of the University in those regions, in the spirit of resolution 70/79, in which Member States are invited to sign the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace and when possible, make financial contributions that will make it possible for the University to offer its programmes of study to all students who wish to participate in them, and facilitate the University's operations in host countries.

72. The University will strive to strengthen training programmes at headquarters in Costa Rica and throughout the world, through the promotion, dissemination and support of the work of the University. With the growth of both its traditional academic programmes and customized training programmes, the sustainability of the work of the University and the pursuit of its mission are guaranteed.

73. The University will also work on prioritizing its relationship with the host country. Relevant action began during the rector's first term and led to a permanent annual contribution on behalf of the Government of Costa Rica to the University. The University is now seeking to build on this partnership in a number of areas, including international law, human rights, gender mainstreaming, sustainable development and other areas of expertise.

74. The University for Peace seeks to transversally incorporate a practical humanitarian experience within all of its academic programmes. This component has been present in several field courses offered over the past several years, including an emergency field training course conducted on campus every year.

75. The University is also proposing the creation of universities as peace spheres, which it hopes to implement in Central America in collaboration with important regional institutions before looking to expand to other regions. The proposal seeks to create a global network of universities for peace, which will serve as spaces for interaction around topics of peace and conflict, with a vision of contributing to peaceful and democratic coexistence, particularly in conflict areas.

2. Long-term vision

76. The University must promote both its role as an international academic institution and as a centre for political dialogue. It has carried out a comprehensive process of academic reform to better execute its mission. The vision for an even more vigorous and effective institution in the long term includes the consolidation and reinforcement of the capacities of the main campus to serve the entire University system through curriculum development, face-to-face teaching and research and sustained two-way links with the considerable experience and knowledge found in institutional partners in other parts of the world. Strengthening the influence and

presence of the University in different regions and offering an active programme for sharing knowledge for peace, including distance learning and the dissemination of toolkits for teaching, will also be expanded in terms of content and reach.

77. With this strategy, the University will reinforce its ability to train new generations in the resolution and transformation of increasingly complex and interdependent conflicts. Similarly, the work conducted will have strengthened its position in providing quality postgraduate education and training governmental and civil society actors. The University's programmes will be re-evaluated on an ongoing basis to ensure academic excellence and harmony in the analysis of old and new conflicts, the causes and characteristics in each region and, in particular, the complicated links between political, ethnic and religious causes and criminal activity. This greater capacity for analysis needs to be transformed into curricula, specific education programmes and training opportunities for a range of actors. This relaunch will make it possible for the University to design a long-term perspective to contribute substantially to the institutional work of effective and cooperative multilateralism.

III. Conclusions

78. In the appendix to the charter of the University, a statement made by the founders of the University has never been more relevant than at the present moment:

> The persistence of war in the history of mankind and the growing threats against peace in recent decades jeopardize the very existence of the human race and make it imperative that peace should no longer be viewed as a negative concept, as the end of conflict or as a simple diplomatic compromise, but rather that it should be achieved and ensured through the most valuable and most effective resource that man possesses: education

79. The University is carrying out a mission that is central to the future of the world. Education for peace must be expanded until it touches all people everywhere, convincing them that armed conflict must be relegated to the past. This will be accomplished only through the ongoing training, at the academic level, of future world leaders from Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in peaceful conflict resolution and the relationship between peace, development, human rights and environmental protection as conditions for economic development and increased equality.

80. For the University to accomplish its mission, Member States must take the lead in supporting that mission by recognizing the institution through generous financial contributions that will make it possible for the University to offer its programmes of study to all students who wish to participate in them and facilitating the University's operations in host countries. Member States could therefore consider increasing their support of the University by providing resources as extrabudgetary funds.

81. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a global agenda designed to deal with development and inclusion. As an academic institution, the University works to contribute to all 17 Sustainable Development Goals from the theoretical point of view, with specific attention on certain individual topics, such as Goal 5, on gender equality, through the master's degree in gender and peacebuilding; Goal 6, on clean water and sanitation, through the master's degree in water cooperation and diplomacy in partnership with IHE Delft Institute for Water Education and Oregon State University; and Goal 13, on climate action, through the master's degree in environment, development and peace, with a specialization in climate change policy.

82. As it approaches its fortieth anniversary, the University's strategy has migrated towards a more effective internationalization process, where the role of Asian

countries has increased, with China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea demonstrating a keen interest in the University and its mandate. This will allow the University to consolidate its financial position while simultaneously contributing to the training of new leaders for peace in Asia.

83. The academic strategy of the University focuses on training leaders for peace in different parts of the world, in the form of master's and doctoral degrees, as well as a series of capacity-building and training programmes, which coincide with the global vision of the General Assembly in matters pertaining to peace education and preventive education.